

**MINUTES
PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
May 14, 2015

Present: Chair: Councillor Haynes

Members: Bill Mumford, Blair Echlin, Suzanne Bartel, June Klassen, John Schmuck

Staff: Harley Machliese, Director of Engineering; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Guests: Larry Cross, former Mayor, Town of Sidney; Randy Humble, CAO, Town of Sidney; Ruth Emery, Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association; Dallas Gislason, Economic Development Officer, Greater Victoria Development Agency; Steven Seltzer, Marketing and Communications Manager, Ron Schuster, Executive Director Canadian College of Performing Arts; Bob Ethridge, John Alberg

Absent: Jeremy Krogh, Andrea Mercer, Travis Lee

MINUTES

MOVED by J. Schmuck and seconded by S. Bartel, "That the minutes of the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held April 9, 2015 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

COOK STREET COMPLETE STREETS

The Chair introduced Ms. Ruth Emery, Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association. Ms. Emery provided the Committee with an update on the Complete Street-Cook Street-Project and the following was noted:

- The consultation process held with the community and residents appeared through.
- From the consultation process project analysis and maps were provided, surveys were undertaken and meetings were held.
- Features were identified along Cook Street during the pre-project analysis including a sense of intimacy in some areas and some significant grade issues at various places along the project route.
- The plan that was provided during the initial consultation appeared to be aware of the grade issues.
- In retrospect the information provided for the residents and the community association did not show any elevations and there were no linkages to residences that would be impacted by the grade changes.
- The Cook Complete Street has been built and there are likely to be remaining issues related to steep verges, potential drainage problems, and possible loss of home value.
- Those passing through the Cook Complete Street project may remark on how good it is, while others may find issue with the narrowness and how much more slowly they have to travel.

- The Municipality of Saanich should reflect on if any lessons have been learnt from this project:
 - A Complete Street concept may appear to be appropriate for policy reasons this does not necessarily mean that the concept is appropriate for all roads.
 - How can appropriateness, impacts and consequences be properly assessed and discussed prior to implementation?
 - What role should Saanich have in ensuring the plans are appropriate for the location?
- Needs of the residents must be balanced with needs of the road.
- A process review could be undertaken to identify pressure points within the process.
- From the lens of the residents who were negatively impacted by this project, a long time passed before they felt Saanich took any action to address the adverse impacts.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Most of the problems have been resolved after productive meetings between residents and Saanich staff.
- Parking spaces along the project should be marked to ensure more efficient use of the available parking.
- Handrails still need to be installed in a few areas.
- Construction of this project had pockets of design challenges.
- For future projects, Saanich is looking to be more proactive to issues/problems that arise.
- Is the concept appropriate for the area should be considered/asked/presented during the public consultation process.

The Committee thanked Ms. Emery for her presentation.

SUCCESSFUL TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE TOWN OF SIDNEY

The Chair introduced Mr. Larry Cross, Former Mayor, Mr. Randy Humble, CAO and Mr. Tim Tanton, Director of Engineering, Town of Sidney. The guests spoke to successful traffic calming projects that has been implemented in the Town of Sidney. The following was noted:

- The Town of Sidney (Sidney) started the process of traffic calming in 2000.
- A Vision Process (Pedestrian, People, Safety and Beautification) was established and vast involvement with the community was realized.
- The beautification and creation of the one-way street on Beacon Avenue was the model for traffic calming in Sidney.
- When Sidney updated its OCP the Pedestrian, People, Safety and Beautification lenses were included.
- The Town of Sidney had strong community support for the traffic calming measures.
- Speed limits should align with the driver's comfort level.
- All of the traffic calming measures utilized by the Town of Sidney are embedded in their OCP and Strategic Plan.
- Public surveys are held to gather retrospective feedback on projects that have been completed.
- From discussions with the Police, the consensus is that enforcement of speed limits is the last resort. The police department is a valuable resource with respect to traffic calming as they have firsthand knowledge on traffic flows.
- Municipal staff require the support of the Municipal leaders if issues arise.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- There is a mean 8 km/hr reduction in speed associated with the installation of “baby” traffic circles.
- The Town of Sidney initiated the traffic calming project on Beacon Avenue and then used a strategic approach for the ongoing process of increasing traffic calming in the area.
- The Town of Sidney does not have any speed bumps/humps.
- An organic design approach is much more positive for a community than an enforcement approach.
- Large roundabouts are an efficient way to move traffic. Collisions that can occur are generally of a less serious nature, fender benders as opposed to “T-bone” collisions.
- The Town of Sidney did not encounter any significant opposition with respect to the traffic calming measures that have been employed.

The Committee thanked Mr. Cross, Mr. Tanton and Mr. Humble for their presentation.

CANADIAN COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS

The Chair introduced Mr. Steven Seltzer, Marketing and Communications Manager; Mr. Ron Schuster, Executive Director, Canadian College of Performing Arts. Mr. Schuster presented the Committee with an overview of the Canadian College of Performing Arts and the potential for a partnership with the Municipality of Saanich. The following was noted:

- The Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA) is owned and operated by the Canadian Heritage Arts Society (CHAS).
- The CHAS is a registered not-for-profit society and charity. The CHAS is accredited with the Private Career Training Institutions Agency of BC.
- CCPA offers quality instruction in the performing arts with a focus on career management and has direct links to opportunities in the workplace.
- Faculty are experts in their respective areas.
- The CCPA offers a 2 year diploma program and an advanced Company C 3 year program.
- The CCPA offers many community outreach programs; performances, lecture speakers, free tickets and training.
- Having the CCPA relocate to Saanich would support the Vision from the District of Saanich’s OCP and Strategic plan:
 - “Saanich vision is a sustainable community where the healthy natural environment is recognized as paramount for ensuring social well-being and economic vibrancy, for current and future generations.”
 - “Saanich as a lively and creative community accessible to artist, to a broad range of artistic expression and to the participation of all residents.”
- Numerous studies have shown that “funding cultural organizations...causes a cascade of economic benefits”.
- Direct benefits: recovering revenue from ticket sales and concessions.
- Indirect benefits: arts show draw tourists from around the world, increasing tourism dollars and boosting incidental businesses.
- Induced benefits include: money spent on the arts is spent in all areas of the economy by arts organizations and their employees.
- The local economic impact from the CCPA is over \$3 million dollars annually.
- The CCPA is asking that Saanich consider:

- An interest free loan to assist with the purchase of the building.
- An Annual grant to assist with operations.
- Tax free status for the first 10 years of operations

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Professional and community groups use space at the CCPA building for a fee.
- Community hub for the arts.
- Saanich is home to the Pacific Institute for Excellence in Sport (PICES). Saanich could also home a similar centre for excellence in the arts and animation.
- Good synergy with UVIC is in place.
- The potential new building is located in Saanich with access to alternate modes of transportation.

The Committee thanked Mr. Seltzer and Mr. Schuster for their presentation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SAANICH AND THE REGION

The Chair introduced Mr. Dallas Gislason, Economic Development Officer, Greater Victoria Development Agency (GVDA). Mr. Gislason presented the Committee with an overview of economic development within the District of Saanich and the local region. The following was noted:

- Economic sustainability has three legs: economic, social and environmental.
- The future of economic development in the Capital Region and the role of Saanich in the future of economic development surround four pillars:
 - Business retention and expansion
 - Business creation
 - Business investment and talent attraction
 - Regional competitiveness
- Attention should be given to reduce economic leakage from Saanich.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Grant increase to the GVDA was not approved. Saanich should work to improve economic development programs/policies.
- Regionally benefits are appreciated from the work done by the GVDA.
- What can Saanich do/have to develop an advantage over the other municipalities?
- A review of why companies do not come to set up business in Saanich or why a company relocates from Saanich should be done.

The Committee thanked Mr. Gislason for his presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2015.

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary